

Tennessee Opens Conversation:

STUDENT-FOCUSED INVESTMENT STRATEGY for K-12 Public Schools



Tennessee is a leader in education and economic and workforce development—making Tennessee the best place to live and work.

Governor Lee and Education Commissioner Penny Schwinn are exploring the future of investing in public education and a new strategy for student-based funding in Tennessee through a robust statewide conversation and public engagement process.

Student-focused investment strategies will help ensure all students have the supports they need in schools to accelerate their learning and achievement, and improve their readiness for success after high school graduation.

Tennessee will explore a student-focused K-12 public school investment strategy that meets the following criteria:



Prioritizes students over systems



Incentivizes student outcomes



Reflects Tennesseans' values



Empowers parents to engage in their child's education



Creates flexible funding to prepare students for postsecondary success



Ensures all students, *regardless of location or learning needs*, are served at a high-level

How to Get Involved

Students, families, educators, district and school leaders, higher education partners, elected officials, business leaders, education stakeholders and members of the public will be engaged throughout these conversations in the coming months through a central steering committee, 18 subcommittees, public survey opportunity, local meetings and more.

Visit tn.gov/education/tnedufunding to learn more and for ways to get involved.
E-mail tnedu.funding@tn.gov with questions.

Tennessee Funding Review Committees

The state's engagement includes a central steering committee composed of statewide policymakers and 18 subcommittees, in addition to a committee of national experts, regional meetings of county commissioners and school board members.

Funding Review Steering Committee

Governor Bill Lee Commissioner Penny Schwinn Tennessee Department of Education Commissioner Butch Eley Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration Senate Majority Leader Jack Johnson	House Majority Leader William Lamberth Senate Speaker Pro Tempore Ferrell Haile Senate Education Chairman Brian Kelsey House Education Administration Chairman Mark White	House Education Instruction Chairlady Debra Moody House Education Administration K-12 Chairman Kirk Haston Senate Finance, Ways, and Means Chairman Bo Watson House Finance, Ways, and Means Chairlady Patsy Hazlewood
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Funding Review Subcommittees

Student Engagement Subcommittee

Chair: **Elizabeth Brown**, State President,
Future Business Leaders of America – Tennessee;
Senior, Coffee County High School

Students with Disabilities and Gifted Students Subcommittee

Chair: **Commissioner Brad Turner**, Tennessee Department
of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

English Learner Subcommittee

Chair: **Raul Lopez**, Executive Director,
Latinos for Tennessee

Economically Disadvantaged and Highly Mobile Students Subcommittee

Chair: **Victor Evans**, Executive Director, TennesseeCAN

Parent Choice and Voice Subcommittee

Chair: **Dr. Derwin Sisnett**, Commissioner,
Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

Teacher Advisory Subcommittee

Chair: **Morgan Rankin**, 2021-22 Teacher of the Year,
Johnson City Schools

Principal Advisory Subcommittee

Chair: **Farrah Griffith**, Principal, White County Schools

School System Personnel Subcommittee

Chair: **Dr. Steve Starnes**, Director of Schools,
Greenville City Schools

School System Leadership Subcommittee

Chair: **Dr. Danny Weeks**, Director of Schools,
Dickson County Schools

Rural and Small District Subcommittee

Chair: **Janet Ayers**, President, Ayers Foundation

Suburban Districts, Municipals, and Fast-Growing Communities Subcommittee

Chair: **Dr. Ted Horrell**, Director of Schools,
Lakeland School System

Urban District Subcommittee

Chair: **Cato Johnson**, Chief of Staff and Senior
Vice President of Public Policy/Regulatory Affairs,
Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare

Higher Education and Post-Secondary Readiness Subcommittee

Chair: **Dr. Youlanda Jones**, President, Tennessee Colleges
of Applied Technology- Covington, Ripley Newbern

Post-Secondary Readiness and the Business Community Subcommittee

Chair: **Randy Boyd**, President,
University of Tennessee System

Chambers of Commerce and Industry Subcommittee

Chair: **Dr. Jared Bigham**, Senior Advisor on Workforce
& Rural Initiatives, Tennessee Chamber of Commerce

Education Foundations Subcommittee

Chair: **Dr. Dan Challener**, President, Public Education
Foundation

Regional Collectives and Advocacy Subcommittee

Co-Chairs: **Scott Niswonger**, Chairman and Founder,
Niswonger Foundation, and **Dr. Nancy Dishner**,
President and CEO, Niswonger Foundation

Fiscal Responsibility Subcommittee

Chair: **Justin Owen**, President & Chief Executive Officer,
Beacon Center of Tennessee